addition, financial assistance has been sought from the Asian Development Bank by the NTPC for capacity expansion of Unchahar Thermal Power Project, which has recently been taken over by it from the Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (UPRVUN).

Construction of an International Airport at Bangalore

*395. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Experts Committe under Shri C. S. Ramanathan IAS (Retd.) has recommended the construction of an International Airport at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Ramanathan, after inspection of several sites, have recommended a location South of Bangalore city for construction of an airport. The Committee has recommended construction of an airport with two parallel runways to meet the requirements of international as well as domestic air traffic. The Committee has also recommended a direct rail link to the airport terminal building from the city and Cantonment Railway stations.

Objectives of DA payment of Government Employees

*396. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the basic objective of giving Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees;

(b) whether that objective is achieved by impounding the DA and merging the same in the Provident Fund, if not, Government propose to stop hence-forth the impugned practice of merging DA instalments with Provident Fund; and

(c) whether Government propose to make such DA instalments free from income tax as these are not actually paid to the employees but are merged with Provident Fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Dearness Allowance is given to the Central Government employees in accordance with the formula recommended by the 4th Central Pay Commission and as accepted by the Government, which provides for increase in dearness allowance on the basis of the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (general) (1960=100) over the base average index of 608. Prior to 1-1-86, additional instalments of dearness allowance were given for every 8/16/24 point increase in the average index depending on the pay range.

Employees drawing pay upto Rs. 3500/- p. m. who constitute bulk of the Central Government employees are being paid additional instalments of dearness allowance in cash. Employees drawing pay beyond Rs. 3500/- p. m. were also paid additional instalments of dearness allowance in cash upto 1-1-1990. The additional instalment of dearness allowance due to these employees w.e.f. 1-7-1990 are being credited to their respective provident fund accounts with a view to minimising the immediate cash outgo from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Under the Income Tax Act, the tax is levied on any income which accrues or arises to a tax payer. Thus, any dearness allowance which is either due or received by an employee is taxable. However, the employees get a rebate in income tax on the deposits made in their Provident Fund Accounts under the Income Tax Act.

Shortfall in Power Generation Capacity in Gujarat

*397. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the anticipated shortfall of power generation capacity in Gujarat in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any coal linkage has been provided for new projects to meet this shortfall; and

(c) if not, in what manner the shortfall is proposed to be met ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE) : (a) Based on a capacity addition target of 260 MW in Gujarat in the VIII Plan period (1992—97), the power supply position in Gujarat in the terminal year of the Plan (1996-97) is anticipated by the Central Electricity Authority to be as under :—

	Peak (MW)	Energy (Mkwh)
Requirement	5,487	33,645
Availability	3,802	27,645
Shortage	1,685	6,000
Percentage	30.7	17.8

(b) and (c) Towards meeting the anticipated shortfall, the following State Sector projects have been identified :—

Name of the Scheme	Total Installed Capacity (in MW)	Benefits during the 8th Plan (1992-97) MW	Likely schedule of commissioning
1. Kadana II Unit-3 & 4	2×60	120	1995-96
2. Sikka Extn. Unit-2	1×120	120	1992-93
3. Kutch Lignite Unit-3	1×70	70	1996-97
4. Utran CCGT	3×33+1×45	78	1992-93
5. Sardar Sarovar (16% share)	6×200+5×50	232	1995-96 (80 MW) 1996-97 (152 MW)
	TOTAL	620	

Coal/Lignite linkage have been given for projects at S. No. 2 & 3 above.

Besides the benefit of 620 MW during the VIII Plan from the above projects, Gujarat will get substantial power as its share from the Central Sector projects, likely to be commissioned during the Plan.

Free Calls for Telephone subscribers in Metros

*398. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metro subscribers pay more for fewer phone calls;

(b) what are the reasons that contrary to popular belief, a telephone user making a call of less than five minutes could be charged for two calls;

(c) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications has been accused of unfairly overcharging consumers to the tune of Rs. 450 crores under the new Scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Only one call is charged for five minutes or less than 5 minutes.

(c) and (d) A press report to this effect appeared on 3-2-93. A rejoinder to this report was issued by M.T.N.L. on 5-2-93. It is not correct to say that the Government has unfairly charged consumers to the extent of Rs. 450 crores.